



Colorado Proud Fun Facts

Did you know?

AGRICULTURE

- There are more than 35,000 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing 31 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area.
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help to feed the world, exporting \$1.8 billion in products. Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea and China receive the largest share of Colorado food products.
- There are more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing more than \$40 billion annually to Colorado's economy.
- Colorado agriculture is more than just food. Farmers and ranchers help create products in construction, manufacturing, health care, education, transportation and personal care including: X-ray film, paper, shoes, soaps, cosmetics, hydraulic brake fluid, ball bearings, bandages, piano keys, plastics, insulation, linoleum, crayons, footballs, tires, perfume, detergents and shaving cream.

LIVESTOCK

- Cattle and Calves is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with 2.5 million head of cattle in the state.
- Nearly 70% of the state's \$7.2 billion in agricultural cash receipts is attributed to livestock.
- Colorado's sheep and lamb totals rank third in the nation and Colorado wool production is fifth.

FIELD CROPS

- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks seventh in the nation. Who knew?
- Sugarbeet production in Colorado totaled more than 860,000 tons in 2013 ranking Colorado ninth nationally.
- Colorado's four leading crops of corn, wheat, hay and potatoes accounted for 91 percent of the total value from all field crops in Colorado in 2013 and are valued at nearly \$2 billion.
- There are approximately 60,000 acres in the San Luis Valley in southwestern Colorado dedicated to fall potato production.
- The San Luis Valley is the largest and highest commercial agricultural valley in the world. Elevation in the Valley ranges from 7,400 to 8,000 feet above sea level.
- There are approximately 25 potato warehouses in Colorado, mostly in the San Luis Valley, that pack and ship potatoes to the nation's fresh market.
- "Quality at its Peak" is the Colorado potato slogan. Colorado potatoes adhere to both a Federal Marketing Order and State Potato Marketing Order (only state to have both) that allow for quality control regulations, advertising and potato research as well as a final USDA Federal-State inspection.
- Colorado ranks first in production of proso millet. This annual grass is grown as a grain crop and is used for bird and livestock feed in the U.S. The grain is also gaining momentum as an ingredient in gluten free foods.
- Colorado producers harvested 1 million acres of corn for grain in 2013.
- Hay is another top crop in Colorado. In 2013 Colorado produced nearly 3 million tons of hay valued at more than \$680 million.
- Colorado is well known for its production of pinto beans. The state ranks ninth nationally in dry bean production.

(over)

VEGETABLE CROPS

- In 2013, Colorado's leading vegetable crops (onions, cabbage, sweet corn) were valued at more than \$50 million.
- Colorado's leading vegetable crop is onions with production totaling nearly 200 million pounds.
- Sweet corn is the second largest vegetable crop produced in the state in terms of value, with annual production of 66 million pounds and a value of \$12 million.
- Colorado produced 56 million pounds of cabbage in 2013 valued at \$9.2 million.
- Other vegetable crops grown in Colorado include carrots, lettuce and spinach.

FRUIT CROPS

- Colorado's leading fruit crops are peaches and apples, accounting for more than \$15 million annually.
- The high altitude at which Colorado apples are grown makes them taste better, consistently winning taste tests in supermarkets and at trade shows.
- Colorado produced 15 million pounds of peaches and 5 million pounds of apples in 2013.
- Since 1980, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 100 licensed wineries. Statewide production of Colorado wines has increased to 1.3 million liters. This amount translates into 124,000 cases of wine, or an estimated \$28 million in retail sales.
- Colorado's grape growing regions range in elevation from 4,000 to 7,000 feet and are among the highest vineyards in the world.

DAIRY/EGGS

- In 2012, Colorado's 134,000 milk cows produced more than 3 billion pounds of milk. Moo...
- There are nearly 4.5 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1 billion eggs each year.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

- Rocky Ford Cantaloupe™ have been grown in the Arkansas River Valley since 1887.
- Over 40 aquaculture producers (fish farmers) and distributors are licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- There are 26,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing more than 1 million pounds of honey every year.